



Catholic Education FOUNDATION

DIOCESE OF JOLIET **RECEIVED**

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February 28, 2018

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Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

The Catholic Education Foundation (CEF) joins the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year. If postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our invitation mailings for free will donations. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

The mission of the Catholic Education Foundation is to generate funds so that every K-12 school age student can attend a Catholic school in our seven-country diocese in Northern Illinois. There are over 600,000 Catholics in our jurisdiction.

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will have the following impact on our mission and the people we serve: a reduction of 1,000 student scholarships over the next five years; an estimated reduction in student enrollment by 6 percent among our 19,000 elementary and secondary school students; and an estimated closing of five grade schools because of the loss of 1,140 students.

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Langenderfer, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer